

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended by the present amendment. The changes to Claim 1 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph regarding the phrase “wherein said document reading unit is configured to read the document prior to specification of said enlargement/reduction condition”; Claims 6-11 and 14 were allowed; and Claims 1-5, 12, and 13 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview granted Applicants’ representative on May 3, 2006, at which time a proposed amendment to the Claim 1 was discussed. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner agreed that the proposed amendment would overcome the outstanding rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

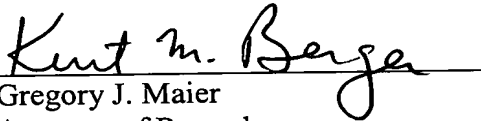
Claim 1 has been amended to be directed to an image processing apparatus, comprising, inter alia: (1) a document reading unit configured to read a document at a constant speed and to generate image data comprising a digital signal, wherein the document reading unit reads the document prior to specification of the enlargement/reduction condition. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 1.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-14 are in condition for formal allowance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)